

Results From a Montana 2023 Resident Mule Deer Hunter Survey

A Survey Conducted By:



Wildlife Division

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BACKGROUND AND SURVEY METHODS

The focus of this report are results from a resident mule deer hunter survey conducted by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) in Montana. Following the 2022 hunting season, FWP conducted this survey to help evaluate Montana's mule deer management relative to hunting and harvest opportunities.

Mailback surveys were sent to a randomly selected statewide sample of N=5000 resident Montana deer license holders pulled from the pool of all resident deer license holders for the 2022 hunting season (as identified from FWP's automated license system database). Survey mailings included an initial mailing of the surveys sent out in late October 2022, followed up by replacement mailings sent out to non-respondents about four to five weeks after the initial mailing of the surveys. Surveys were successfully mailed out to a total of N=4881 resident deer license holders (there were a total of 119 surveys that were undeliverable). A total of N=2005 resident deer license holders responded to the survey, resulting in an overall 41 percent response rate for the resident survey. This response rate is considered to be good for a mailback survey of this kind.

This report provides results from this important survey, including both statewide and regional survey results for questions designed to provide FWP region specific information (see the map below for the seven FWP administrative regions of Montana).



SURVEY RESULTS

Overall, 79 percent of all the survey respondents reported they hunted mule deer in Montana during the past five years. These respondents are the focus of this report.

Importance of Mule Deer Hunting in Montana

Response to... “How important is mule deer hunting to you in Montana? (Check only **ONE** below)”

- 1.4% It is **my LEAST important** hunting activity
- 4.8% It is **one of my least important** hunting activities
- 31.9% It is **no more or no less important** than my other hunting activities
- 51.2% It is **one of my most important** hunting activities
- 10.8% It is **my MOST important** hunting activity

Mule Deer Hunting by Region of Montana

Response to... “In what **REGION** of the state have you spent the MOST TIME hunting mule deer in Montana during the past FIVE years? (Check only **ONE** below)”

- 7.6% Region 1
- 25.7% Region 3
- 10.6% Region 5
- 12.6% Region 7
- 10.6% Region 2
- 20.9% Region 4
- 12.0% Region 6

Reasons for Why Hunters Spend Most of Their Time Hunting Mule Deer in this Region of Montana (Aggregate Results for All Seven Regions of Montana Combined)

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important were the following potential reasons for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this REGION of the state during the past five years? (Circle only **ONE** number for each item below)”

	1 Very Unimportant	2	3	4	5 Very Important
To hunt close to home	12.5%	8.3%	15.5%	24.9%	38.8%
To hunt in a familiar location	4.4%	4.4%	14.7%	33.5%	42.9%
Mule deer numbers	6.3%	10.6%	27.9%	27.9%	27.2%
<u>Antlerless</u> mule deer numbers	25.7%	14.8%	28.7%	16.3%	14.5%
Mule deer <u>buck</u> numbers	7.6%	8.7%	25.4%	29.9%	28.4%
Access to hunt mule deer on PUBLICLY owned land	7.4%	5.4%	16.0%	21.6%	50.7%
Access to hunt <u>antlerless</u> mule deer on PRIVATELY owned land	42.3%	14.2%	17.6%	11.9%	14.0%
Access to hunt mule deer <u>bucks</u> on PRIVATELY owned land	29.2%	11.3%	18.6%	16.5%	24.4%
To be able to hunt <u>mule deer</u> and <u>other game species</u> at the same time	7.2%	4.9%	13.2%	23.7%	51.0%

Note. **Figures 1-9** at the end of this report provide region specific results for this question.

Perceptions Regarding Opportunities to Hunt Mule Deer in the Region of Montana Where Respondents Spent the Most Time Hunting Mule Deer During the Past Five Years (Aggregate Results for All Seven Regions of Montana Combined)

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate the following in this **REGION** of Montana? (Circle only **ONE** number for each item below)”

	1	2	3	4	5
	Poor				Excellent
Overall opportunities to hunt mule deer	5.4%	9.4%	30.1%	34.8%	20.2%
Opportunities to hunt <u>antlerless</u> mule deer	16.0%	12.9%	26.5%	25.8%	18.8%
Opportunities to hunt mule deer <u>bucks</u>	7.4%	11.0%	28.1%	32.8%	20.7%
Opportunities to hunt <u>mature</u> mule deer bucks	18.8%	17.5%	28.3%	20.1%	15.3%

Note. **Figures 10-13** at the end of this report provide region specific results for this question.

Perceptions Regarding Access to Hunt Mule Deer in the Region of Montana Where Respondents Spent the Most Time Hunting Mule Deer During the Past Five Years (Aggregate Results for All Seven Regions of Montana Combined)

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate the following in this **REGION** of Montana? (Circle only **ONE** number for each item below)”

	1	2	3	4	5
	Poor				Excellent
Access to PUBLICLY owned land to hunt mule deer	6.4%	10.7%	25.4%	31.3%	26.2%
Access to PRIVATELY owned land to hunt <u>antlerless</u> mule deer	27.9%	20.2%	27.1%	16.1%	8.7%
Access to PRIVATELY owned land to hunt mule deer <u>bucks</u>	28.4%	20.5%	24.8%	15.1%	11.3%

Note. **Figures 14-16** at the end of this report provide region specific results for this question.

Perceptions Regarding the Number of Other Hunters Typically Seen While Hunting Mule Deer in the Region of Montana Where Respondents Spent the Most Time Hunting Mule Deer During the Past Five Years (Aggregate Results for All Seven Regions of Montana Combined)

Response to... “In terms of congestion & crowding, on a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable was the NUMBER of other hunters you typically observed PER DAY when hunting mule deer in this **REGION** of Montana? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”

(Very unacceptable)	1	2	3	4	5	(Very acceptable)
	11.0%	18.4%	38.9%	21.4%	10.3%	

Note. **Figure 17** at the end of this report provides region specific results for this question.

Response to... “In terms of the behavior of people, on a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable was the BEHAVIOR of other hunters you typically observed when hunting mule deer in this **REGION** of Montana? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very unacceptable)	1	2	3	4	5	(Very acceptable)
	4.5%	10.5%	29.7%	35.1%	20.2%	

Note. **Figure 18** at the end of this report provides region specific results for this question.

Satisfaction With Current Mule Deer Hunting Regulations in the Region of Montana Where Respondents Spent the Most Time Hunting Mule Deer During the Past Five Years (Aggregate Results for All Seven Regions of Montana Combined)

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the current mule deer hunting regulations in this **REGION** of Montana? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very dissatisfied)	1	2	3	4	5	(Very satisfied)
	11.3%	12.6%	30.3%	29.8%	16.0%	

Note. **Figure 19** at the end of this report provides region specific results for this question.

Opinions Regarding the Ease of Understanding Current Mule Deer Hunting Regulations in the Region of Montana Where Respondents Spent the Most Time Hunting Mule Deer During the Past Five Years (Aggregate Results for All Seven Regions of Montana Combined)

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very difficult to understand) to 5 (very easy to understand), how would you rate the ease of understanding the current mule deer hunting regulations in this **REGION** of Montana? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very difficult to understand)	1	2	3	4	5	(Very easy to understand)
	3.2%	10.4%	26.4%	31.1%	28.9%	

Note. **Figure 20** at the end of this report provides region specific results for this question.

Opinions Regarding How Complex Mule Deer Hunting Regulations Should Be in Montana

In addition to biological considerations, satisfying the desires of a wide range of hunter interests often leads to complex hunting regulation.

Response to... “Given only **ONE CHOICE**, which of the following would be most favorable to you in MONTANA as a whole? (Check only ONE below)”

40.2% With few exceptions, mule deer hunting regulations should be the same in most Hunting Districts across the state

-OR-

59.8% There should be a variety of different mule deer hunting regulations across the state to meet the desires of a wide range of mule deer hunter interests

Response to... “Given only ONE CHOICE, which of the following would be most favorable to you in the REGION of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past FIVE years? (Check only ONE below)”

52.4% With few exceptions, mule deer hunting regulations should be the same across most Hunting Districts in this REGION of the state

-OR-

47.6% There should be a variety of different mule deer hunting regulations across this REGION of the state to meet the desires of a wide range of mule deer hunter interests

Note. **Figure 21** at the end of this report provides region specific results for this question.

Opinions Regarding How Restrictive Mule Deer Hunting Regulations Should be in Montana

Managing for higher numbers of mature mule deer buck (e.g., bucks 4-5 years of age or older) may require implementing more restrictive mule deer hunting regulations. For instance, in current limited permit areas in Montana the average drawing odds are once every ten years.

Response to... “Given only ONE CHOICE, which of the following would be most favorable to you in MONTANA as a whole? (Check only ONE below)”

61.4% The opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks every year somewhere in Montana (with a *lower probability* of harvesting a mature buck)

-OR-

38.6% The opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks once every several years somewhere in Montana (with a *higher probability* of harvesting a mature buck)

Response to... “Given only ONE CHOICE, which of the following would be most favorable to you in the REGION of Montana where you’ve spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past FIVE years? (Check only ONE below)”

61.4% The opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks every year in this REGION of the state (with a *lower probability* of harvesting a mature buck)

-OR-

38.6% The opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks once every several years in this REGION of the state (with a *higher probability* of harvesting a mature buck)

Note. **Figure 22** at the end of this report provides region specific results for this question.

Of note, respondents who reported that mule deer hunting isn’t very important to them were more likely to select the more restrictive option. For instance, 44-49 percent of the respondents who reported that mule deer hunting isn’t very important to them selected the “opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks once every several years” for both survey questions. This compares to 36-37 percent of the respondents who reported that mule deer hunting is important to them.

Also of note, respondents who reported that harvesting a trophy buck is an important motivation for going mule deer hunting in Montana were more likely to select the more restrictive option. For instance, 46-47 percent of the respondents who reported that harvesting a trophy buck is important to them selected the “opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks once every several years” for these two survey questions. This compares to 23-24 percent of the respondents who reported that harvesting a trophy buck is NOT important to them.

Response to... “Implementing more restrictive mule deer hunting regulations in a Hunting District can lead to increased mule deer hunting pressure on less restrictive Hunting Districts in the state. On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable or unacceptable to you is this tradeoff? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important is it to you to be able to consistently hunt mule deer in the same place in Montana each and every year? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Opinions Regarding the Timing of the Mule Deer Hunting Season in Montana

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (strongly oppose) to 5 (strongly support), to what extent do you support or oppose the hunting of mule deer **BUCKS** in Montana during the RUT (generally after mid-November)? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Note. While this question was not specifically designed with the intent of providing regional data, **Figure 23** at the end of this report examines response to this survey question by the region of Montana where survey respondents reported they have spent the most time hunting mule deer in Montana during the past five years.

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important is it to you to be able to hunt mule deer in Montana during the week that includes the Thanksgiving holiday? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Response to... “On a scale from 1 (strongly oppose) to 5 (strongly support), to what extent do you support or oppose the current timing of the five-week general rifle season for mule deer hunting in Montana which starts the third weekend in October and ends the Sunday after Thanksgiving? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important is it to you that the timing of the general rifle season for mule deer hunting matches up with the timing of the general rifle season for elk hunting in Montana? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Interest in Hunting Mule Deer in Montana During the Archery and Muzzleloader Seasons in Montana

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very disinterested) to 5 (very interested), how interested are you in hunting mule deer during the ARCHERY season in Montana? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”



Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very disinterested) to 5 (very interested), how interested are you in hunting mule deer during the MUZZLELOADER season in Montana? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very disinterested) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very interested)
 47.2% 15.9% 16.3% 8.7% 12.0%

Interest in Harvesting Antlerless Mule Deer in Montana

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very disinterested) to 5 (very interested), how interested are you in harvesting antlerless mule deer in Montana? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very disinterested) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very interested)
 27.8% 13.4% 20.5% 16.6% 21.7%

Note. While this question was not specifically designed with the intent of providing regional data, **Figure 24** at the end of this report examines response to this survey question by the region of Montana where survey respondents reported they have spent the most time hunting mule deer in Montana during the past five years.

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable to you is the hunting of antlerless mule deer for management purposes (e.g., population control, game damage, disease management, etc.)? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very acceptable)
 6.7% 5.7% 18.9% 23.9% 44.7%

Motives (or Reasons) for Hunting Mule Deer in Montana

Response to... “Below is a list of different reasons why people go deer hunting. On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), please indicate how important each of these reasons are to you for going MULE DEER hunting in Montana. (Circle only ONE number for each reason listed below)”

Reason:	1	2	3	4	5
	Very Unimportant				Very Important
To enjoy nature and the outdoors	0.9%	1.1%	5.3%	19.8%	72.9%
To get venison for eating	3.6%	5.5%	14.5%	21.0%	55.4%
To do something with my family	4.0%	6.0%	15.3%	23.6%	51.2%
To be with friends who have similar interests	4.2%	6.0%	16.3%	28.3%	45.1%
To feel the exhilaration of the hunt	5.0%	7.9%	22.4%	28.1%	36.5%
To develop my skills and abilities	5.0%	7.3%	24.0%	28.3%	35.5%
To test my hunting skills	6.1%	8.5%	24.4%	26.5%	34.5%
To harvest a trophy buck	6.8%	9.7%	24.4%	25.4%	33.8%
To feel a sense of accomplishment	8.2%	8.2%	23.0%	27.3%	33.4%
To experience solitude	6.0%	5.7%	16.5%	25.9%	46.0%

Satisfaction with Mule Deer Management in Montana

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with current mule deer management in Montana? (Circle only ONE number below)”

(Very dissatisfied) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very satisfied)
 11.1% 13.6% 33.7% 29.9% 11.6%

Trust in FWP to Manage Mule Deer in Montana

Response to... “On a scale from 1 (little or no trust) to 5 (very high trust), how much trust do you place in FWP to manage mule deer in Montana? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”

(Little or no trust)	1	2	3	4	5	(Very high trust)
	10.9%	14.7%	26.3%	29.7%	18.3%	

Where Resident Mule Deer Hunters Typically Get Their Information Regarding Mule Deer & Mule Deer Management in Montana

Response to... “From what sources do you typically get MOST of your information regarding mule deer and mule deer management in Montana? (Check ALL that apply below)”

66.2% Family and/or friends	5.4% Facebook
44.5% Word of mouth	3.3% Instagram
42.0% Other mule deer hunters	0.3% Twitter
62.7% FWP	3.7% YouTube
63.4% Montana hunting regulations	12.9% Television, radio, newspaper, or magazine
6.8% Mule Deer Foundation	1.5% Local or regional online event calendar(s)
8.4% Sportsperson group(s)	1.2% Community bulletin board(s)
23.3% Private landowners	6.6% Other source
10.5% Website(s)	

Background Characteristics of Survey Respondents

Response to... “During the past FIVE years, have you hunted ELK in Montana?”

11.9% NO
 88.1% YES.....“If yes, on a scale from 1 (never or rarely) to 5 (all the time), how often do you also hunt mule deer (or would harvest a mule deer) while you are primarily elk hunting? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”

(Never or rarely)	1	2	3	4	5	(All the time)
	10.8%	10.1%	16.9%	22.3%	39.9%	

Response to... “During the past FIVE years, have you hunted ANTELOPE in Montana?”

48.6% NO
 51.4% YES.....“If yes, on a scale from 1 (never or rarely) to 5 (all the time), how often do you also hunt mule deer (or would harvest a mule deer) while you are primarily antelope hunting? (Circle only **ONE** number below)”

(Never or rarely)	1	2	3	4	5	(All the time)
	36.9%	16.6%	13.6%	12.0%	20.9%	

Response to... “How many of the past FIVE years have you hunted mule deer in Montana? (Check only **ONE** below)”

7.3% 1 year
 8.6% 2 years
 12.4% 3 years

9.9% 4 years
61.8% All 5 years

Response to... "On average, about how many **DAYS PER YEAR** do you hunt mule deer in Montana?"

Mean = 10.4 days per year
Median = 10.0

Age of respondents: Mean 49.5 years of age; Median 51.0

15-19 (8.9%) 20-24 (2.9%) 25-34 (10.5%) 34-44 (17.0%) 45-54 (13.6%) 55-64 (18.8%) 65-74 (18.6%) 75-84 (6.7%) 85+ (2.9%)

FIGURES WITH REGIONAL SURVEY RESULTS
(For Survey Questions with an Intent to Provide Regional Survey Information)

Figure 1. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you was being able TO HUNT CLOSE TO HOME as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

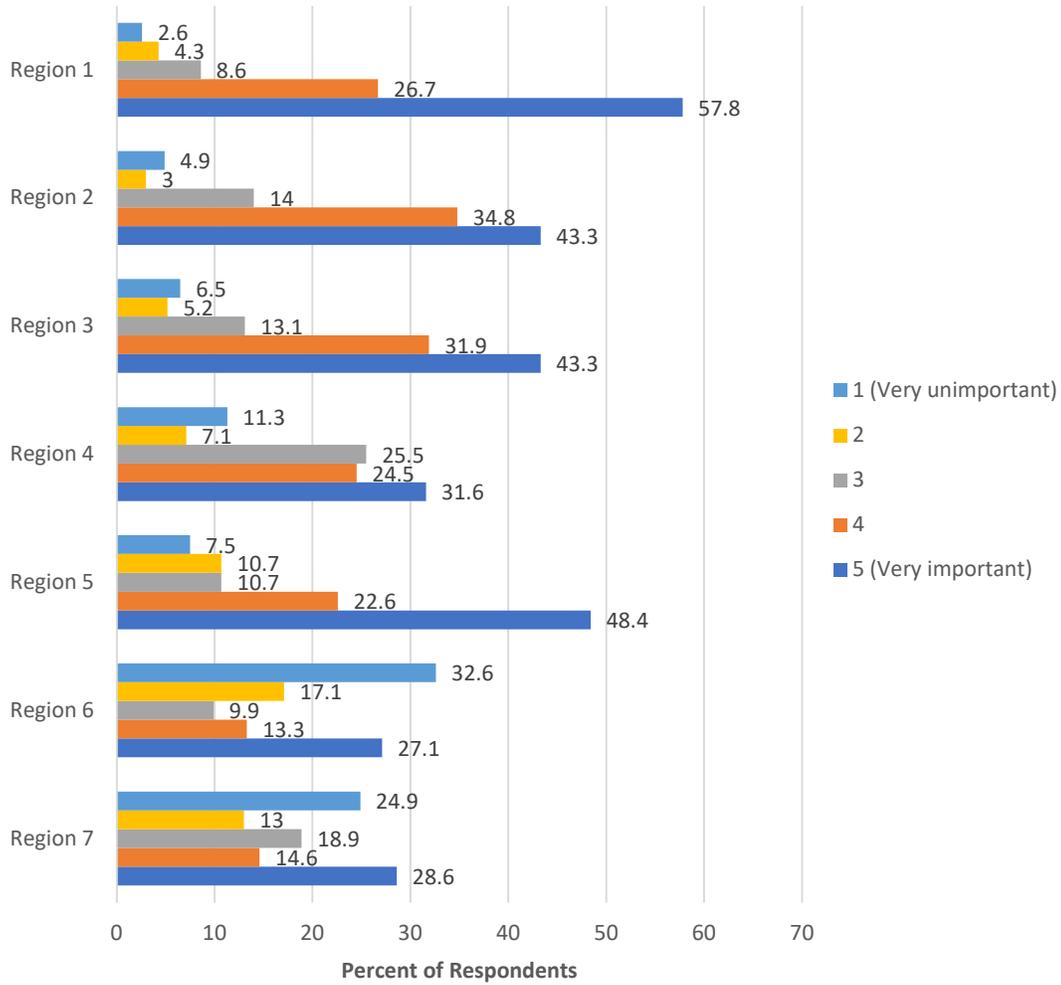


Figure 2. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you was being able TO HUNT IN A FAMILIAR LOCATION as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

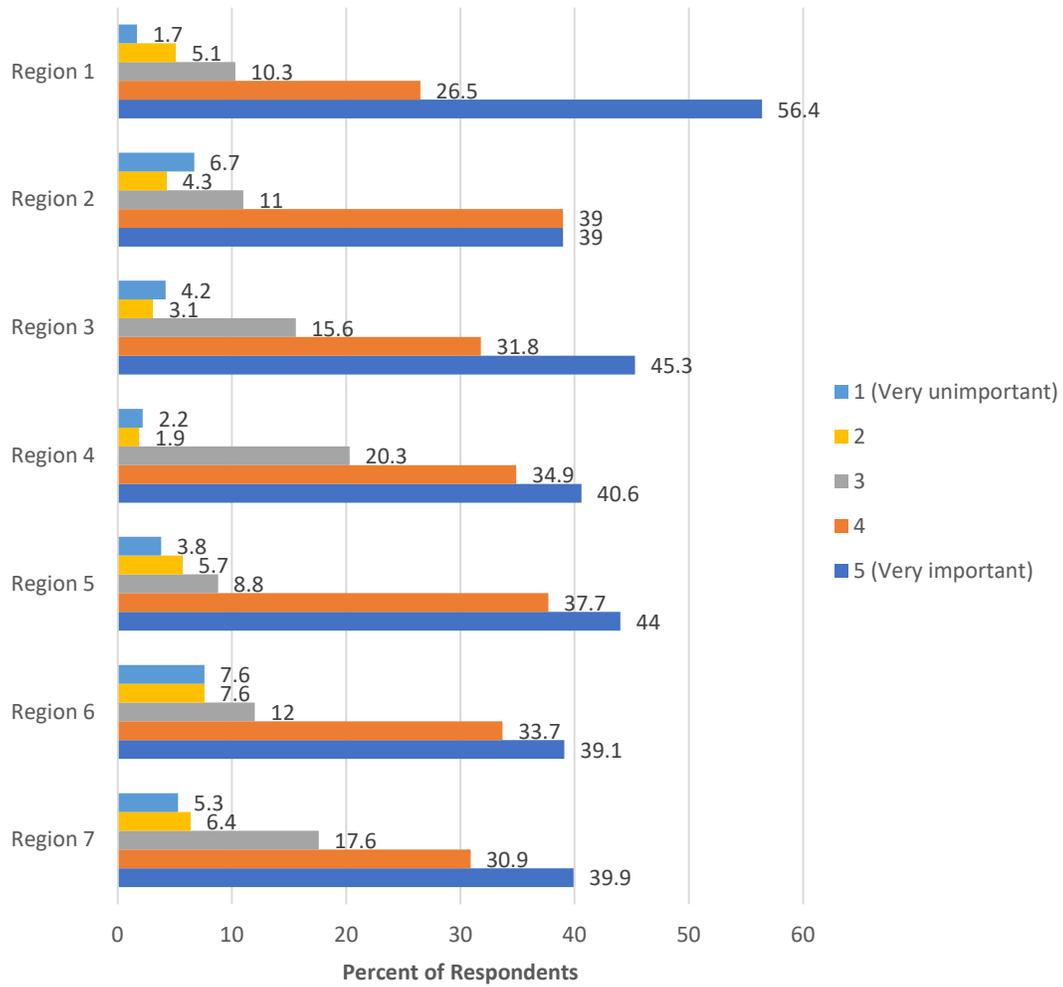


Figure 3. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you were MULE DEER NUMBERS as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

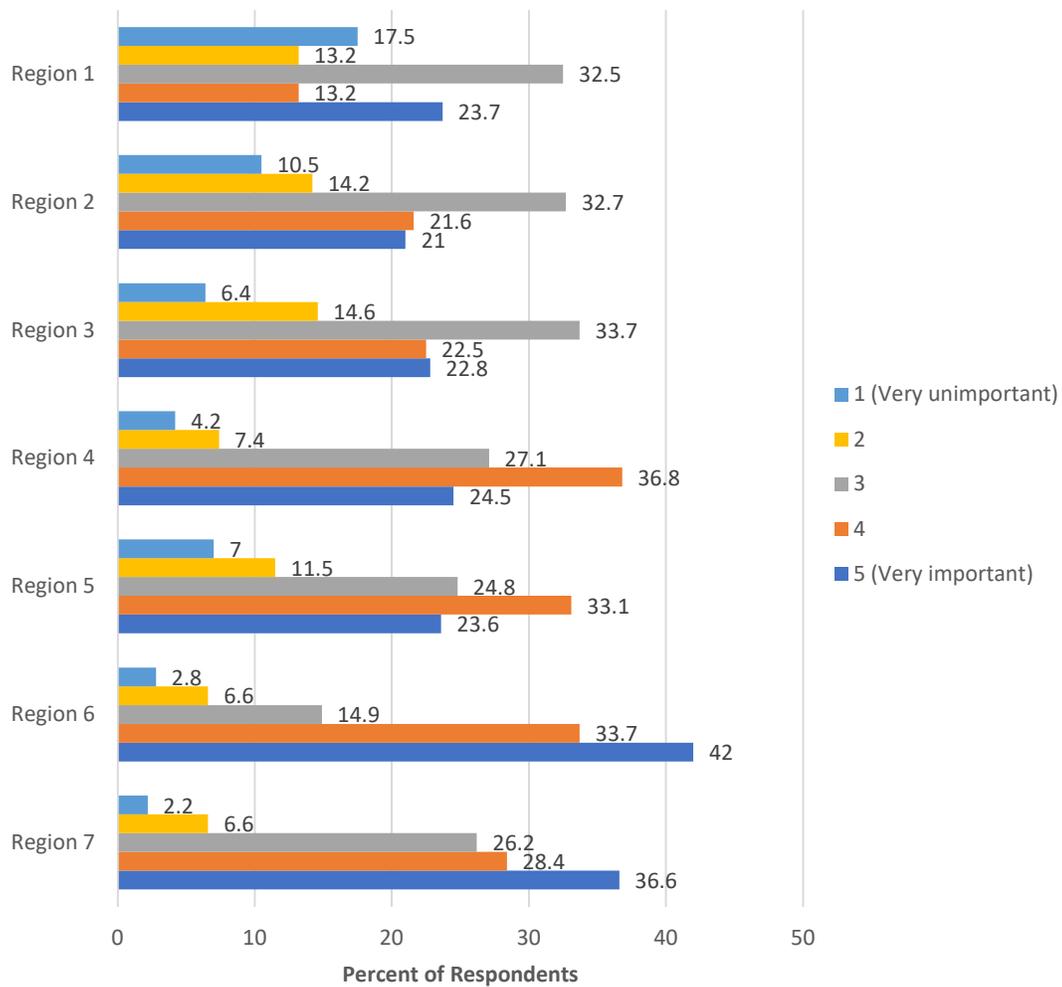


Figure 4. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you were ANTLERLESS MULE DEER NUMBERS as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

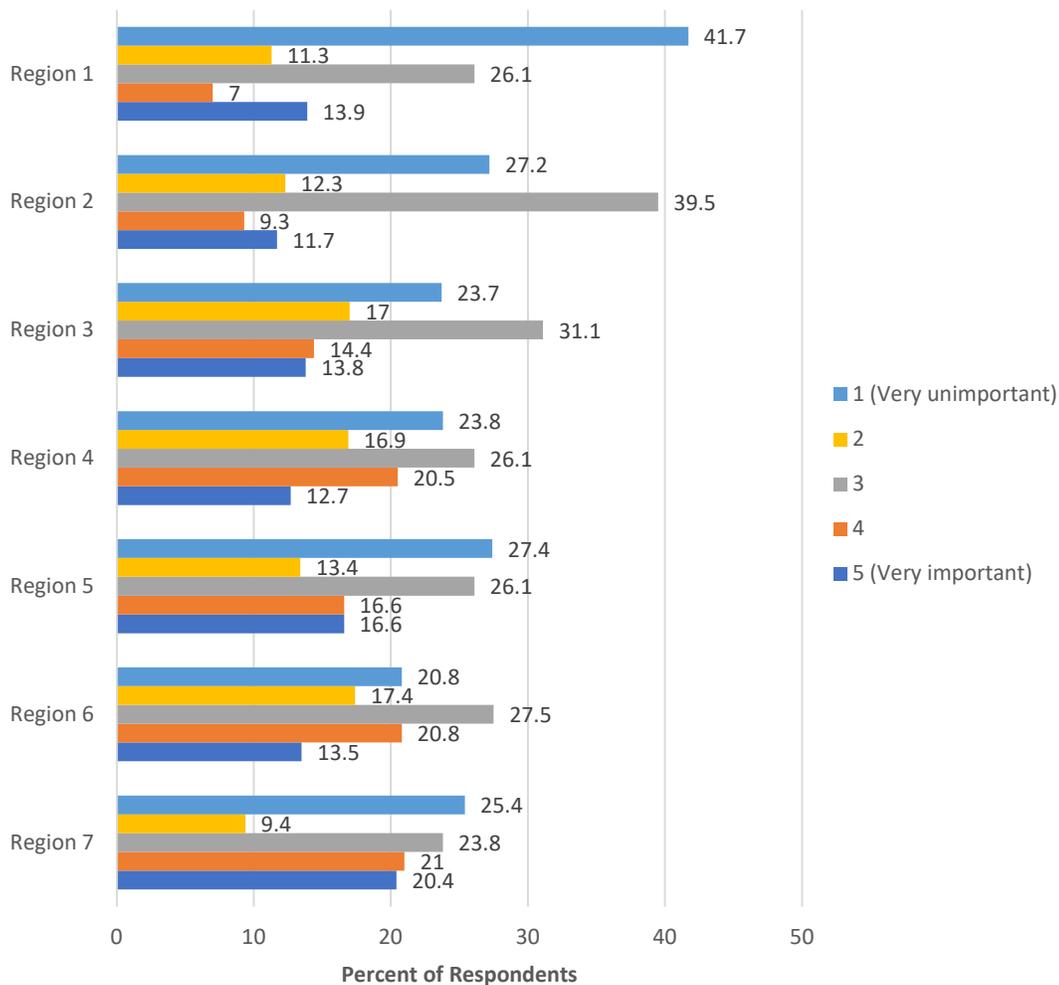


Figure 5. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you were MULE DEER BUCK NUMBERS as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

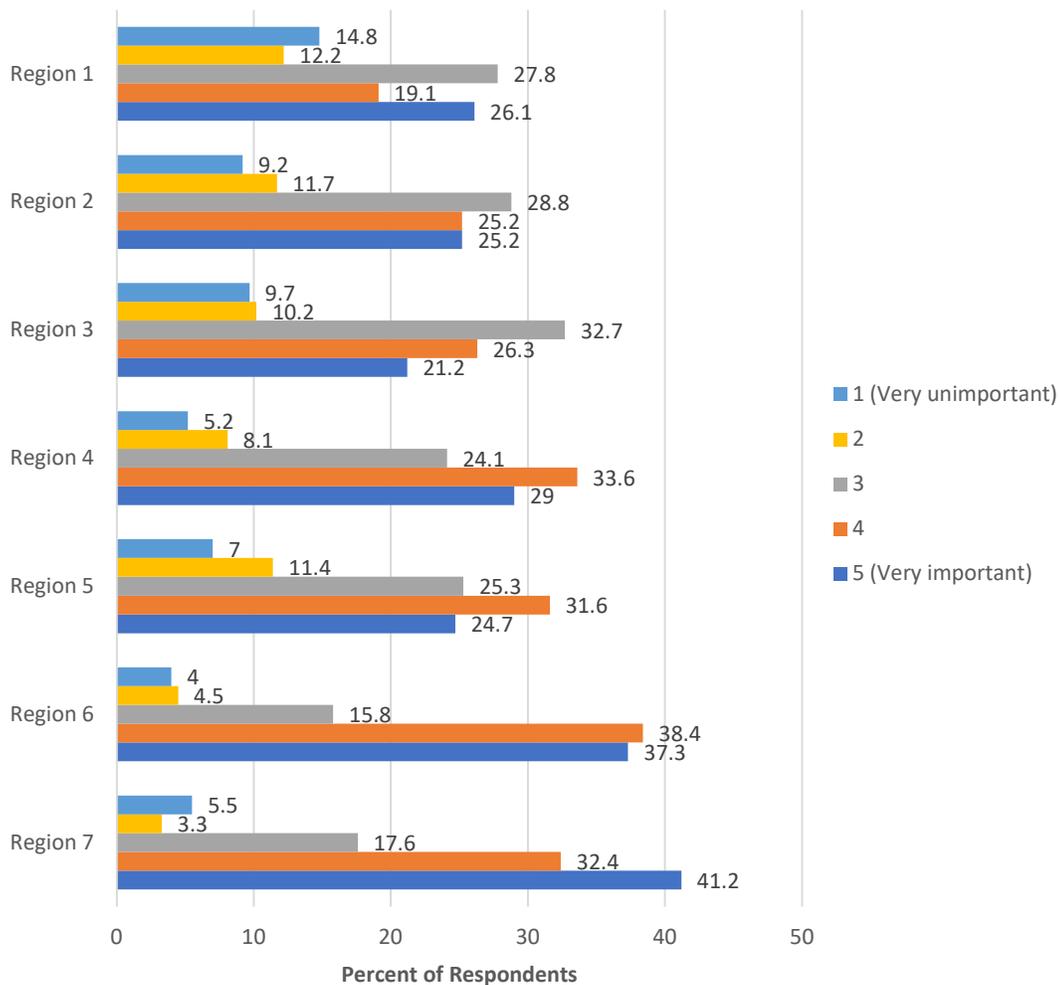


Figure 6. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you was ACCESS TO HUNT MULE DEER ON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

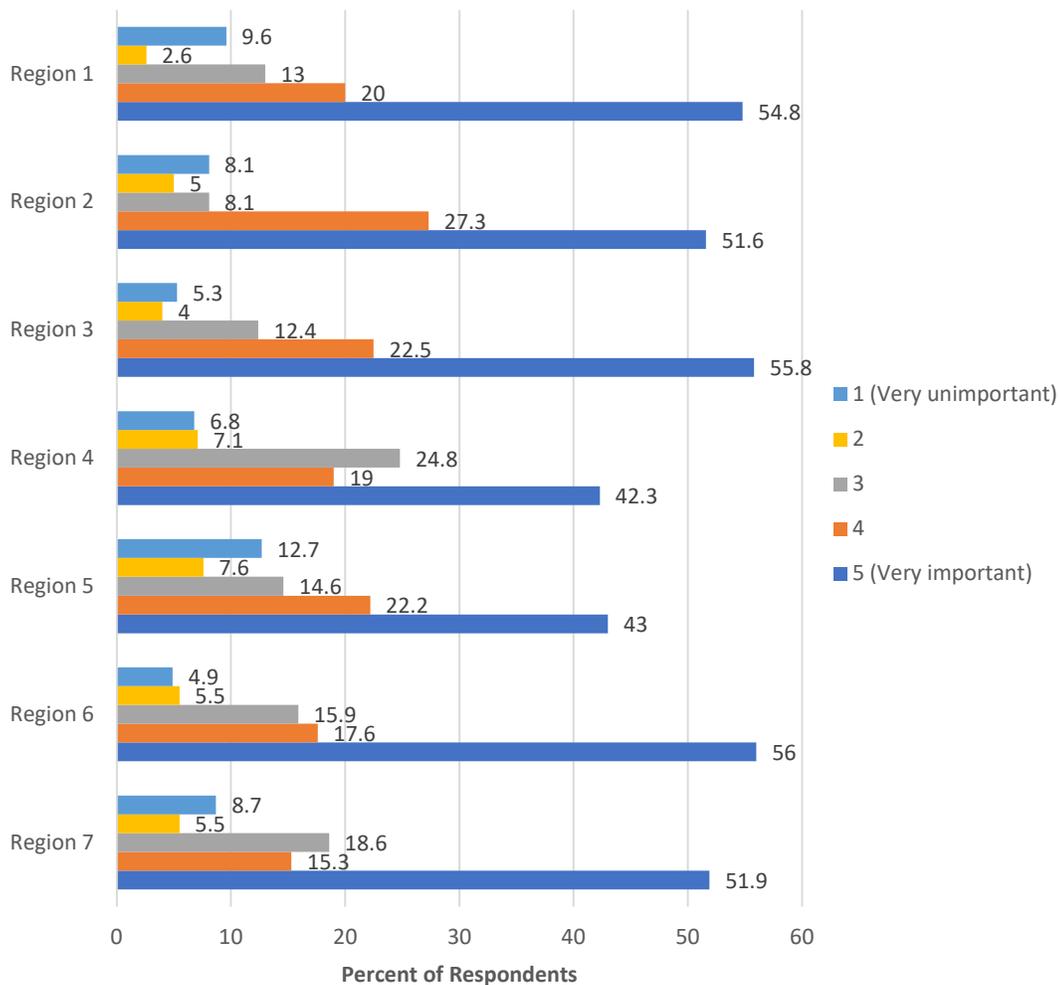


Figure 7. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you was ACCESS TO HUNT ANTLERLESS MULE DEER ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

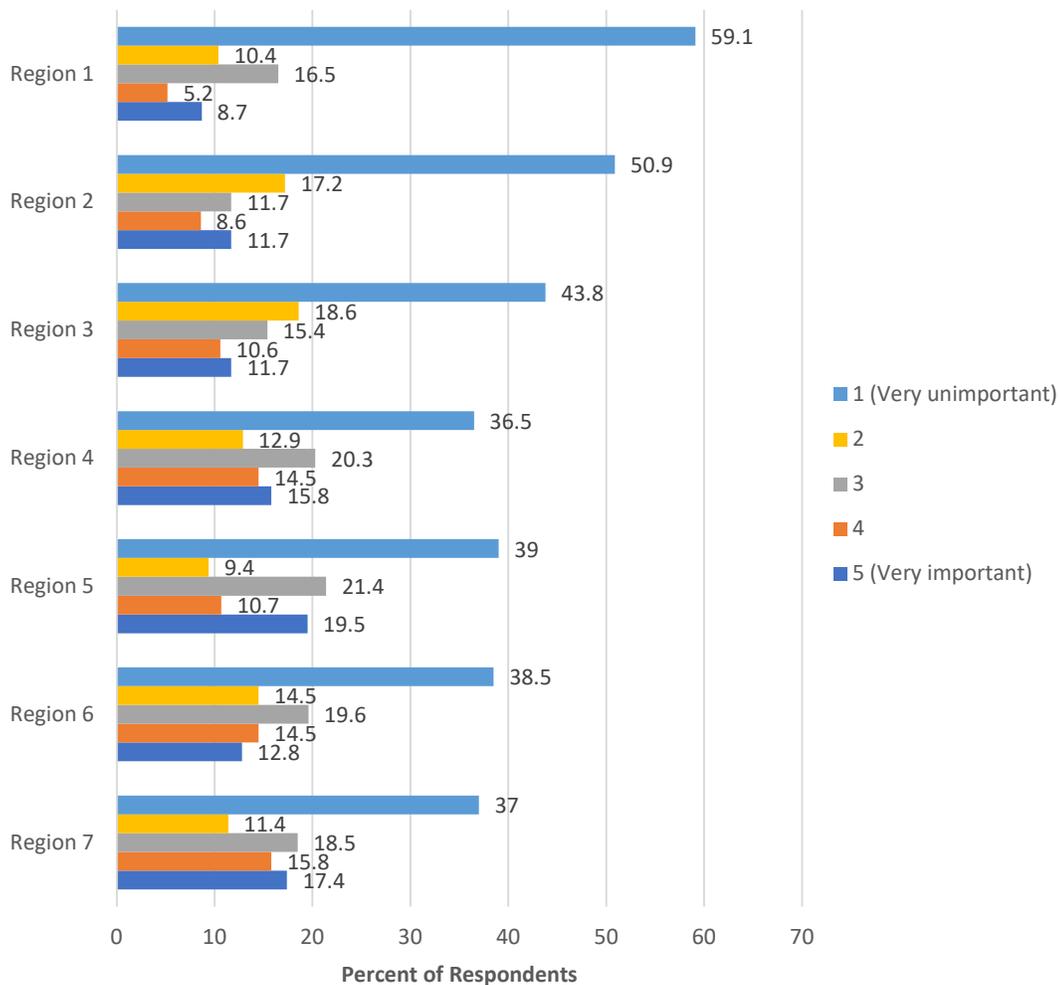


Figure 8. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you was ACCESS TO HUNT MULE DEER BUCKS ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

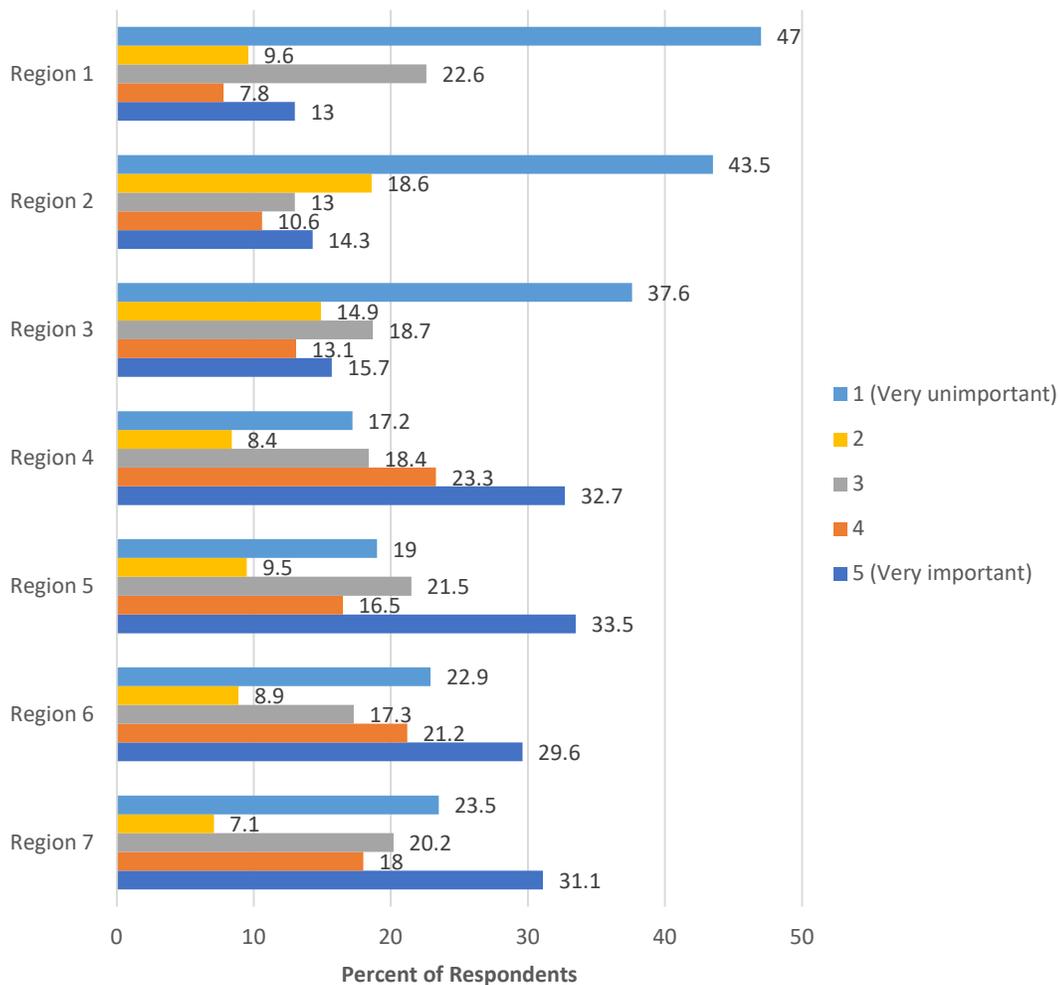


Figure 9. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important to you was it TO BE ABLE TO HUNT MULE DEER AND OTHER GAME SPECIES AT THE SAME TIME as a potential reason for why you spent most of your time hunting mule deer in this region of the state during the past five years?”

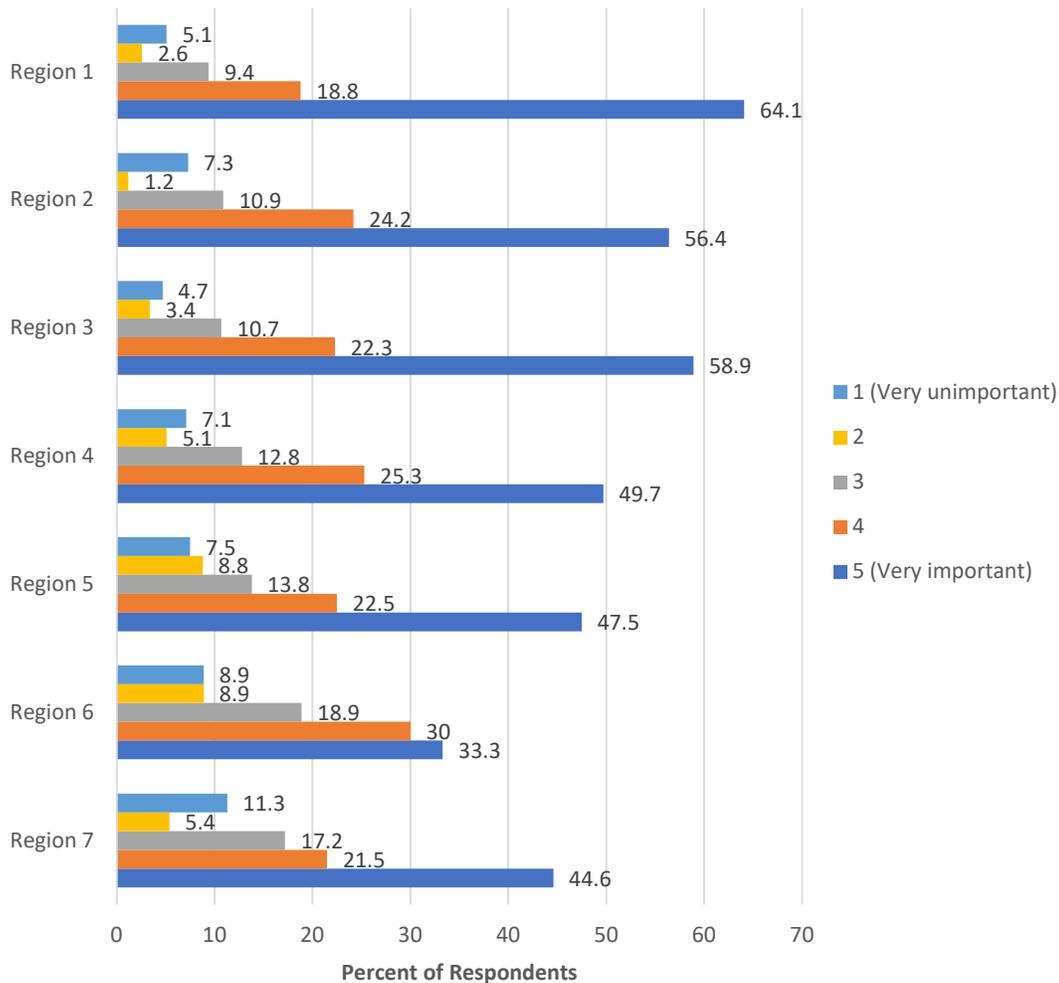


Figure 10. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate OVERALL OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT MULE DEER in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

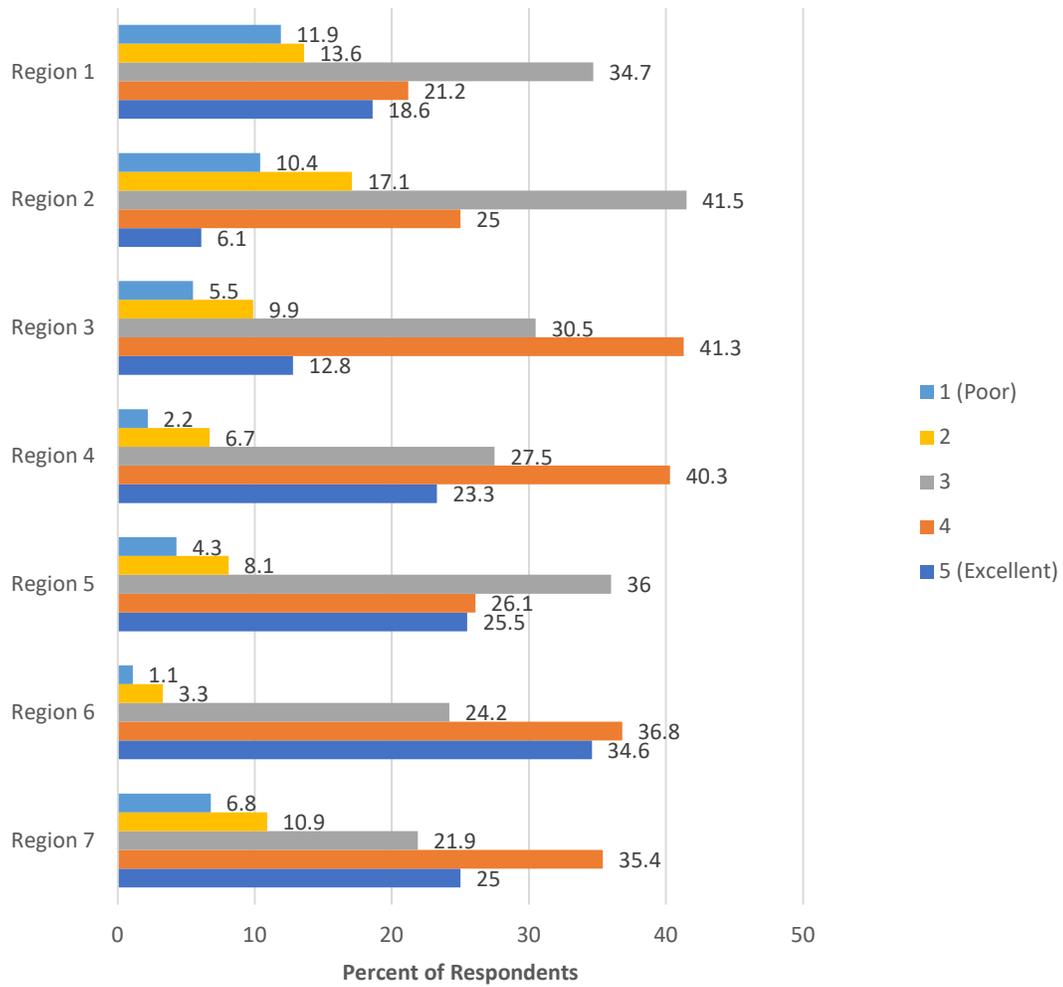


Figure 11. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT ANTLERLESS MULE DEER in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

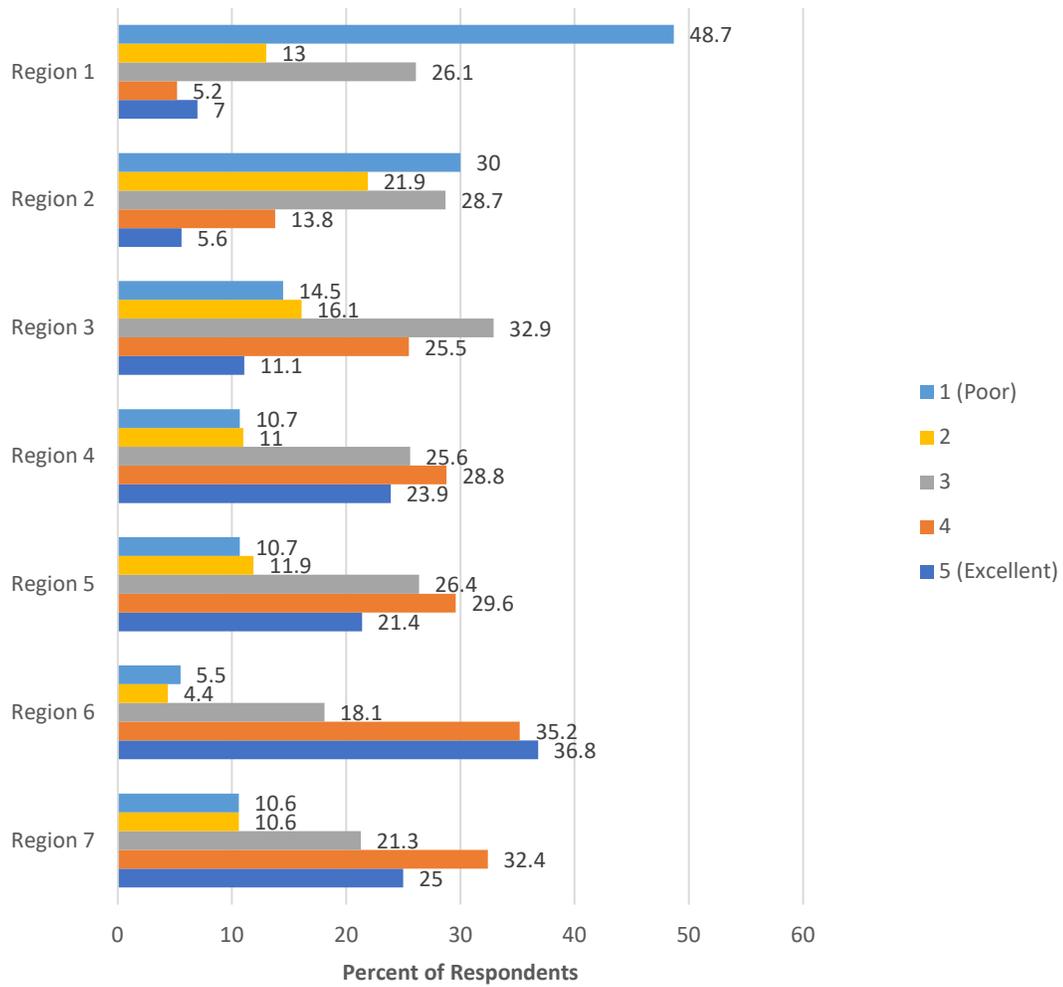


Figure 12. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT MULE DEER BUCKS in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

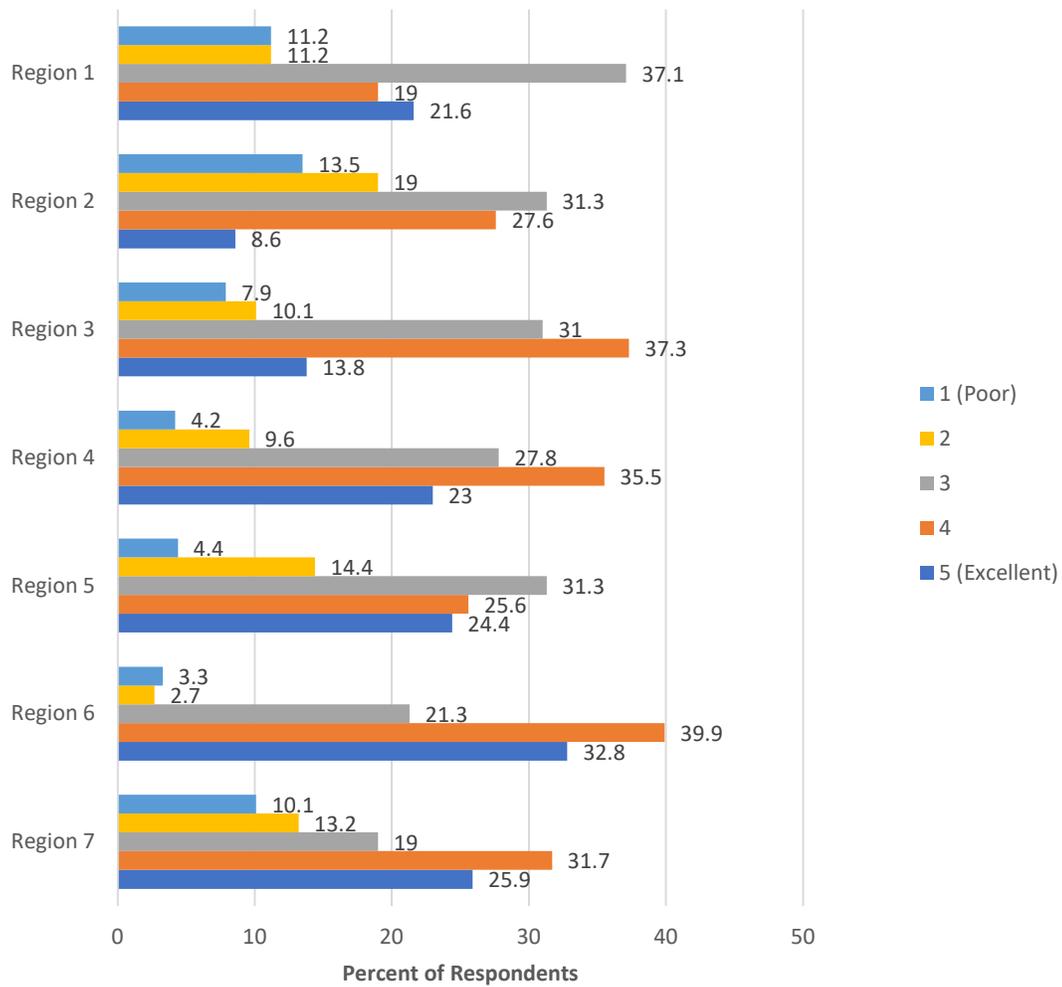


Figure 13. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT MATURE MULE DEER BUCKS in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

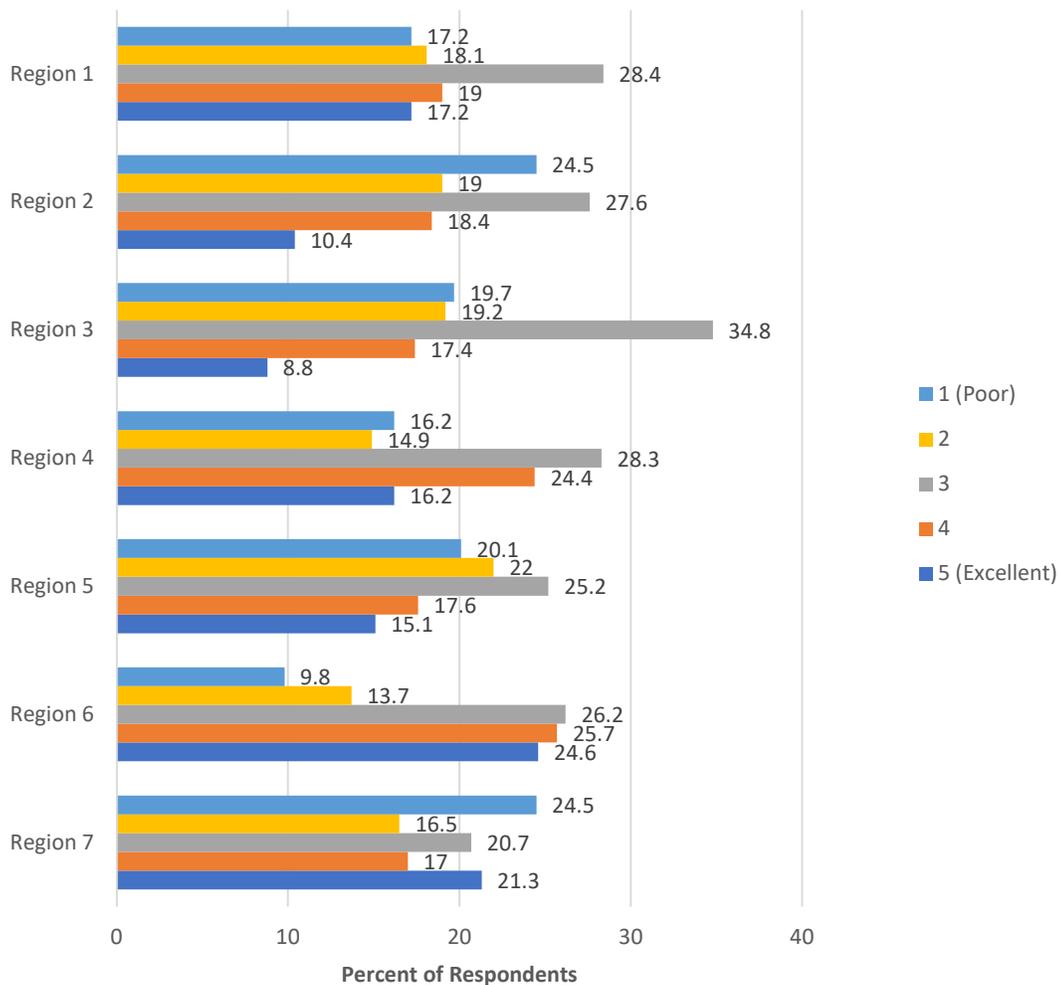


Figure 14. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate ACCESS TO PUBLICLY OWNED LAND TO HUNT MULE DEER in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

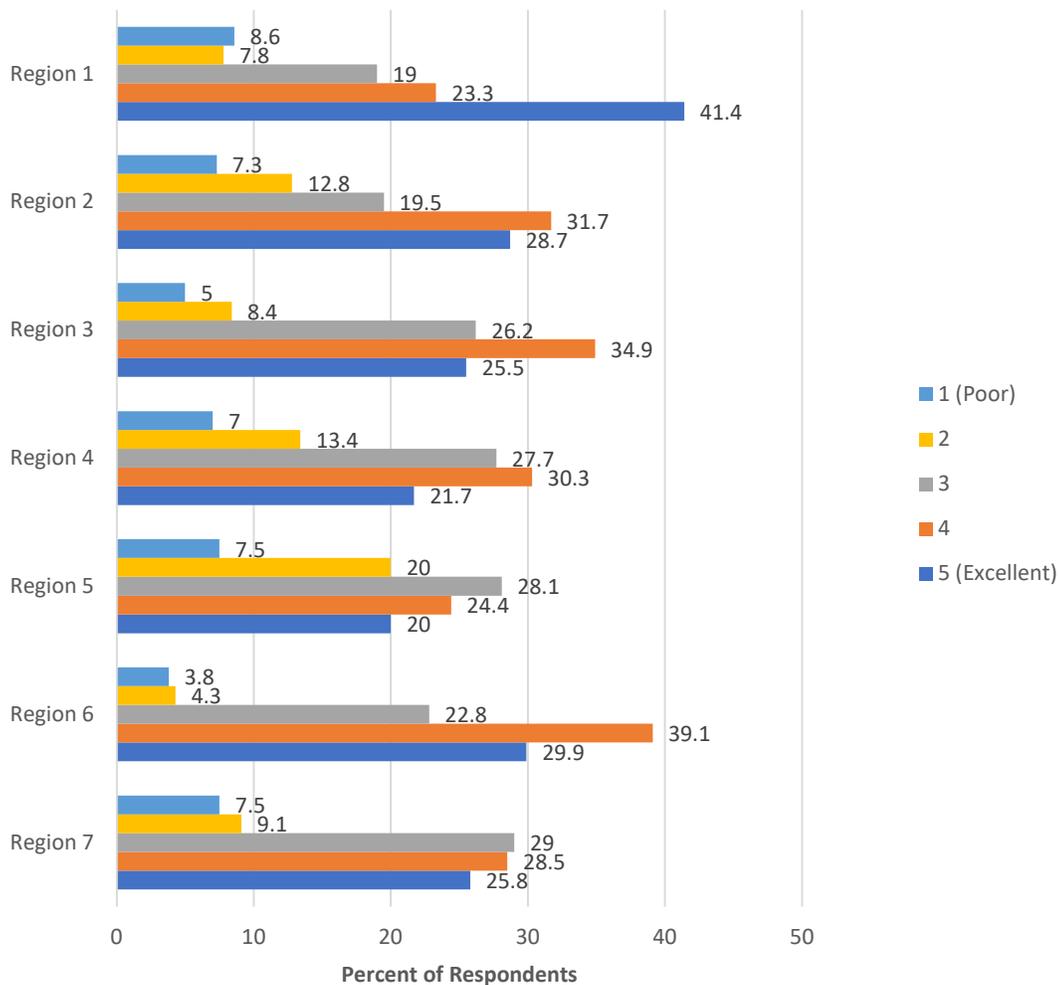


Figure 15. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate ACCESS TO PRIVATELY OWNED LAND TO HUNT ANTLERLESS MULE DEER in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

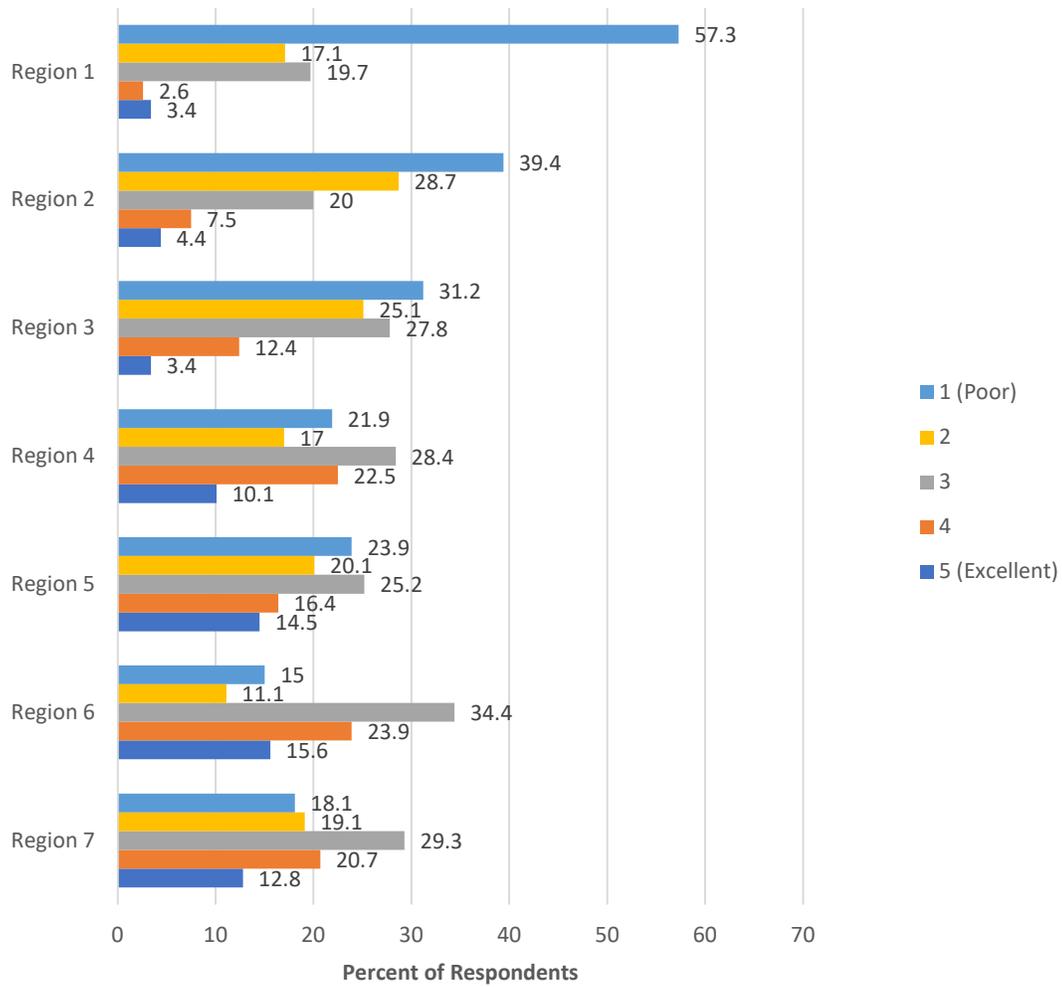


Figure 16. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate ACCESS TO PRIVATELY OWNED LAND TO HUNT MULE DEER BUCKS in the region of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past five years?”

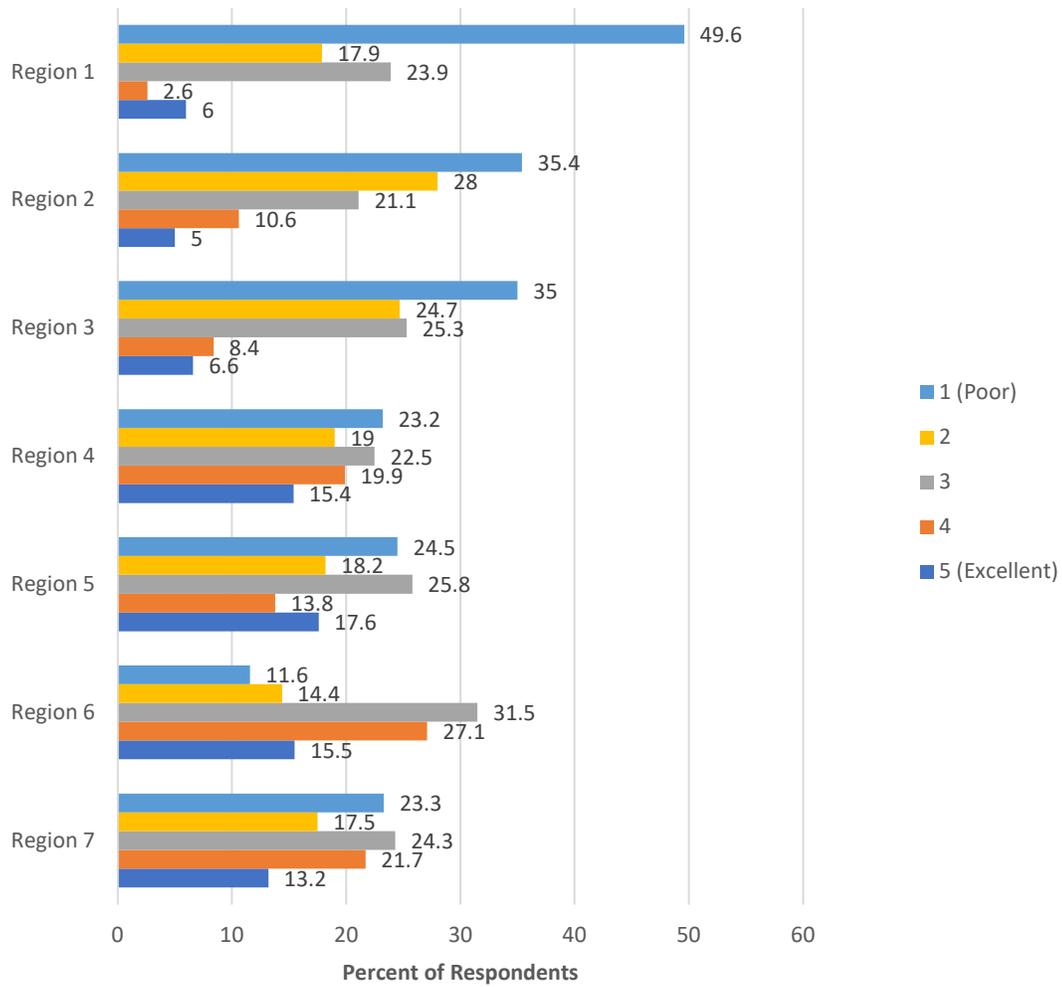


Figure 17. Regional response to... “In terms of congestion & crowding, on a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable was the NUMBER of other hunters you typically observed PER DAY when hunting mule deer in this region of Montana?”

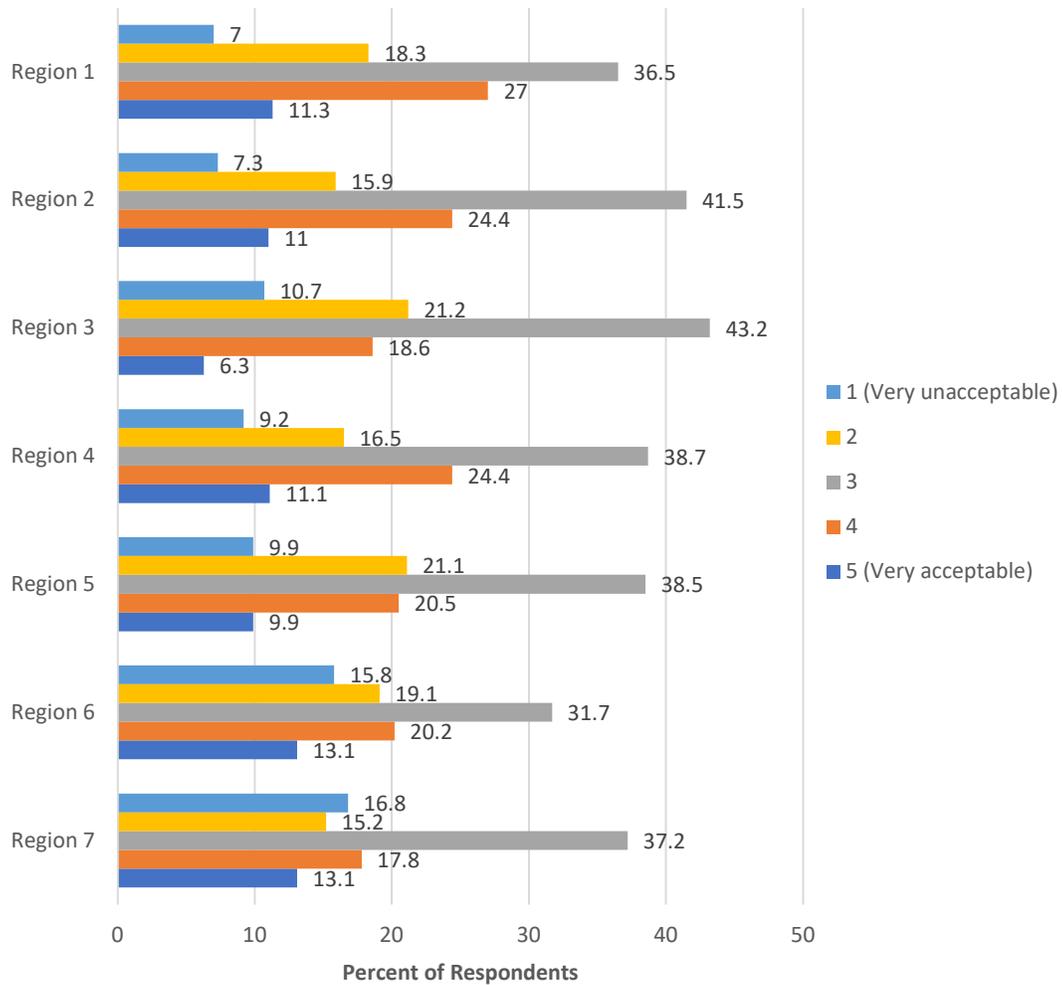


Figure 18. Regional response to... “In terms of the behavior of other people, on a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable was the BEHAVIOR of other hunters you typically observed when hunting mule deer in this region of Montana?”

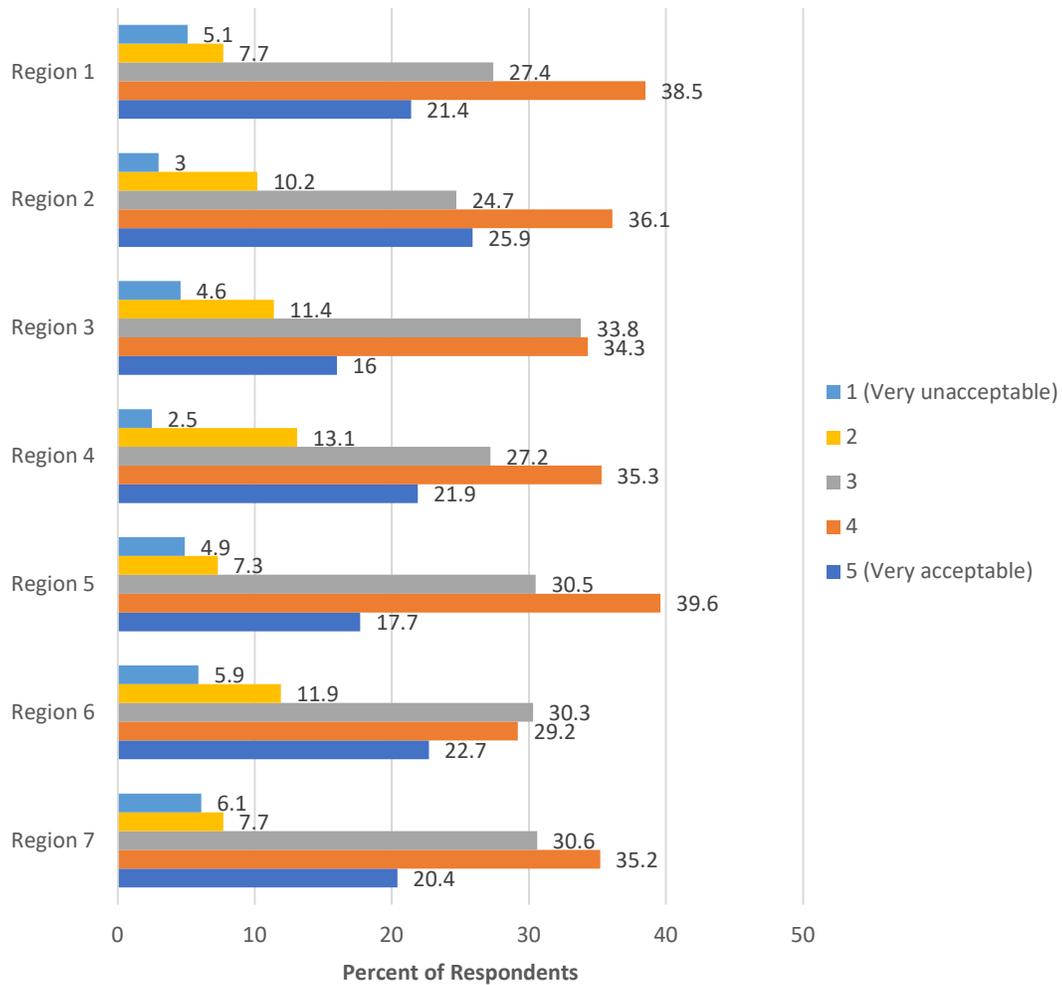


Figure 19. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with current mule deer hunting regulations in this region of Montana?”

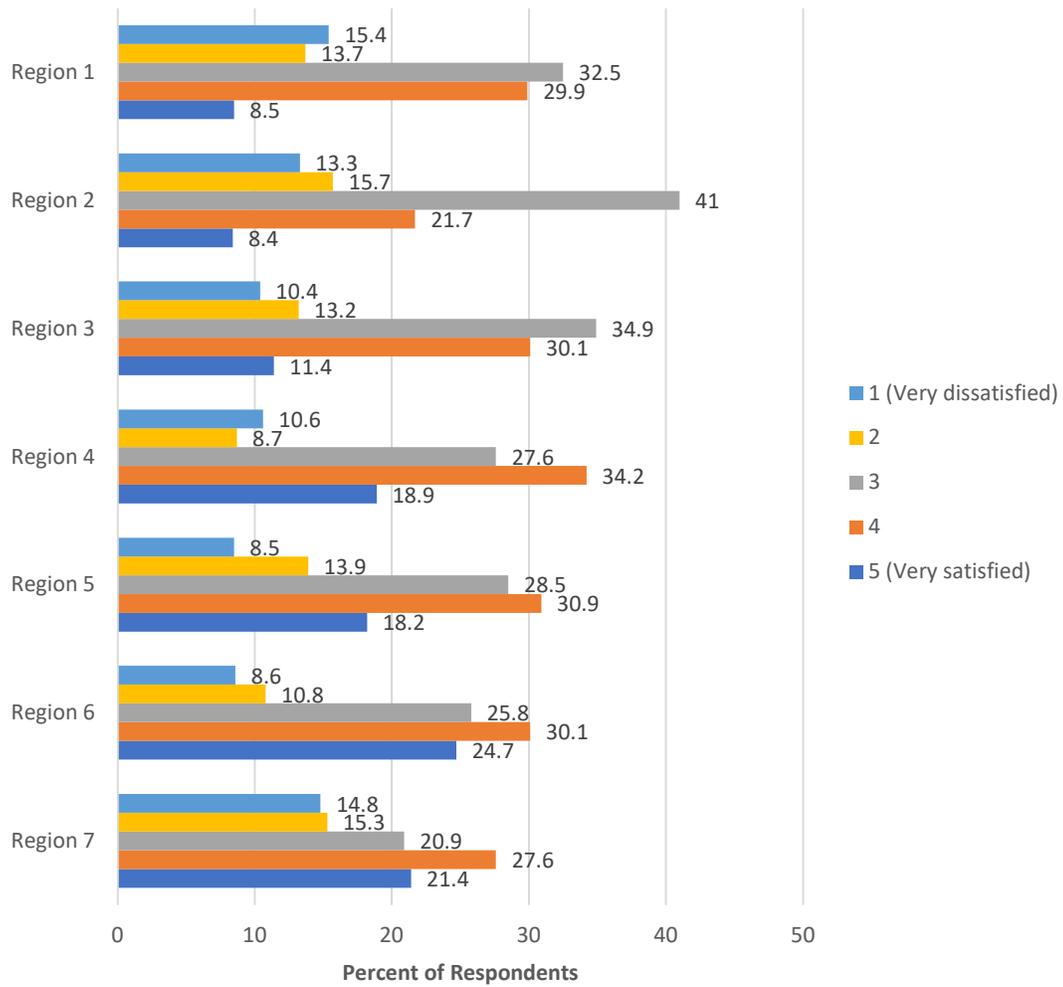


Figure 20. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very difficult to understand) to 5 (very easy to understand), how would you rate the ease of understanding the current mule deer hunting regulations in this region of Montana?”

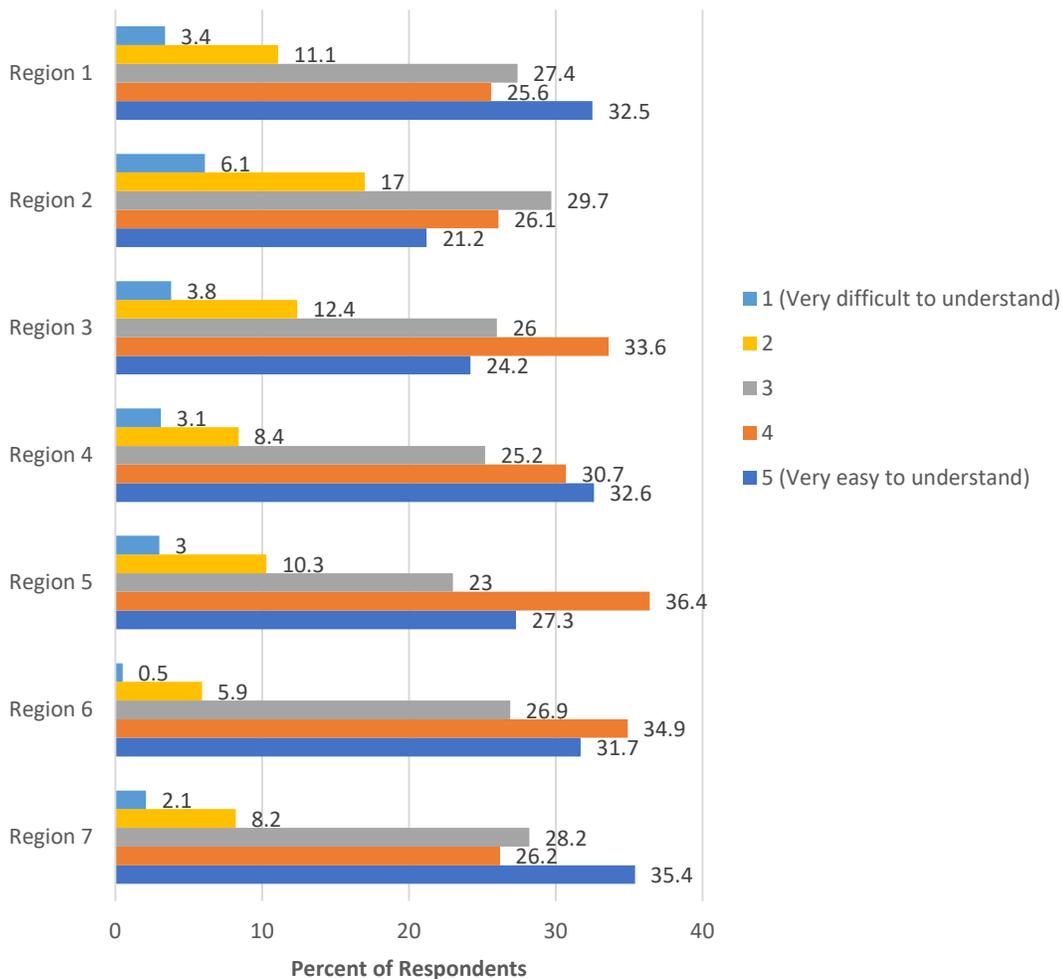


Figure 21. Regional response to... “In addition to biological considerations, satisfying the desires of a wide range of hunter interests often leads to complex hunting regulation. Given only ONE CHOICE, which of the following would be most favorable to you in the REGION of Montana where you have spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past FIVE years?”

A With few exceptions, mule deer hunting regulations should be the same across most Hunting Districts in this REGION of the state

-OR-

B There should be a variety of different mule deer hunting regulations across this REGION of the state to meet the desires of a wide range of mule deer hunter interests

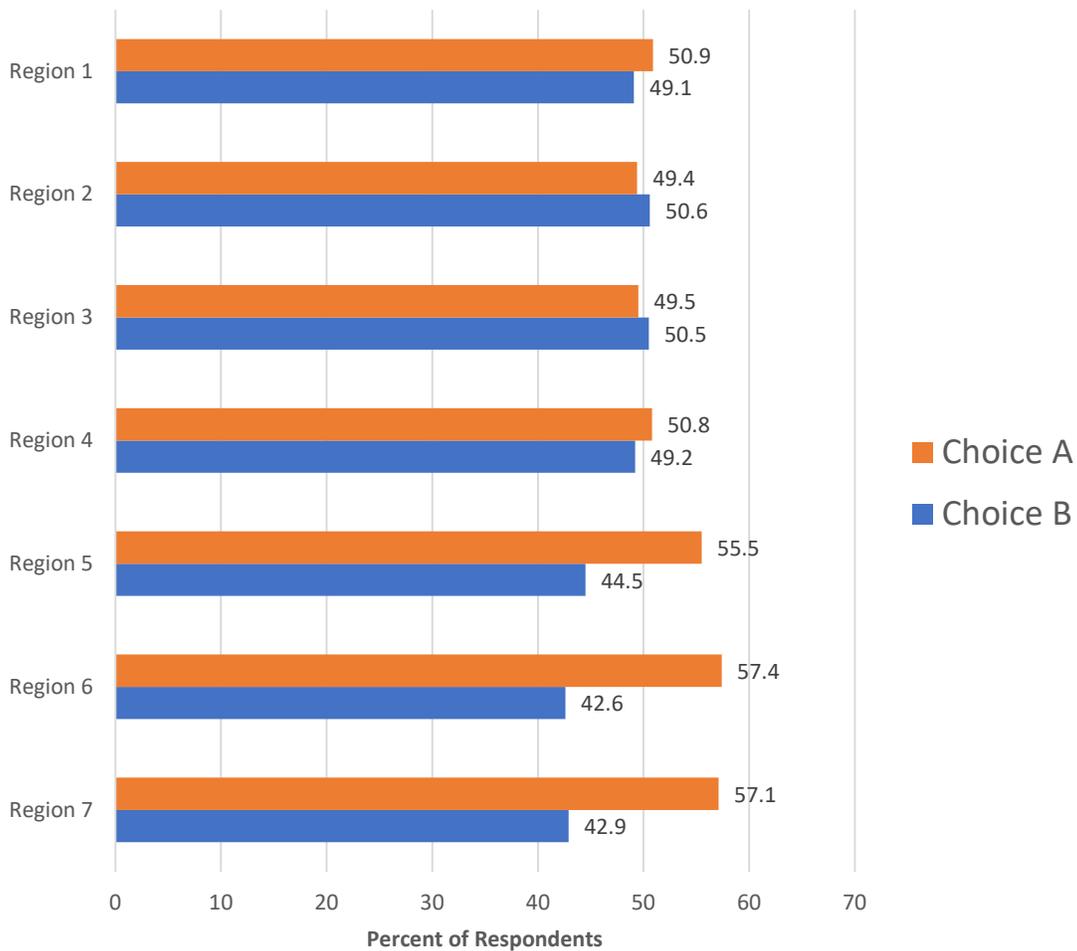


Figure 22. Regional response to... “Managing for higher numbers of mature mule deer buck (e.g., bucks 4-5 years of age or older) may require implementing more restrictive mule deer hunting regulations. For instance, in current limited permit areas in Montana the average drawing odds are once every ten years. Given only ONE CHOICE, which of the following would be most favorable to you in the REGION of Montana where you’ve spent the most time hunting mule deer during the past FIVE years?”

- A** The opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks every year in this REGION of the state (with a lower probability of harvesting a mature buck)

-OR-

- B** The opportunity to hunt mule deer bucks once every several years in this REGION of the state (with a higher probability of harvesting a mature buck)

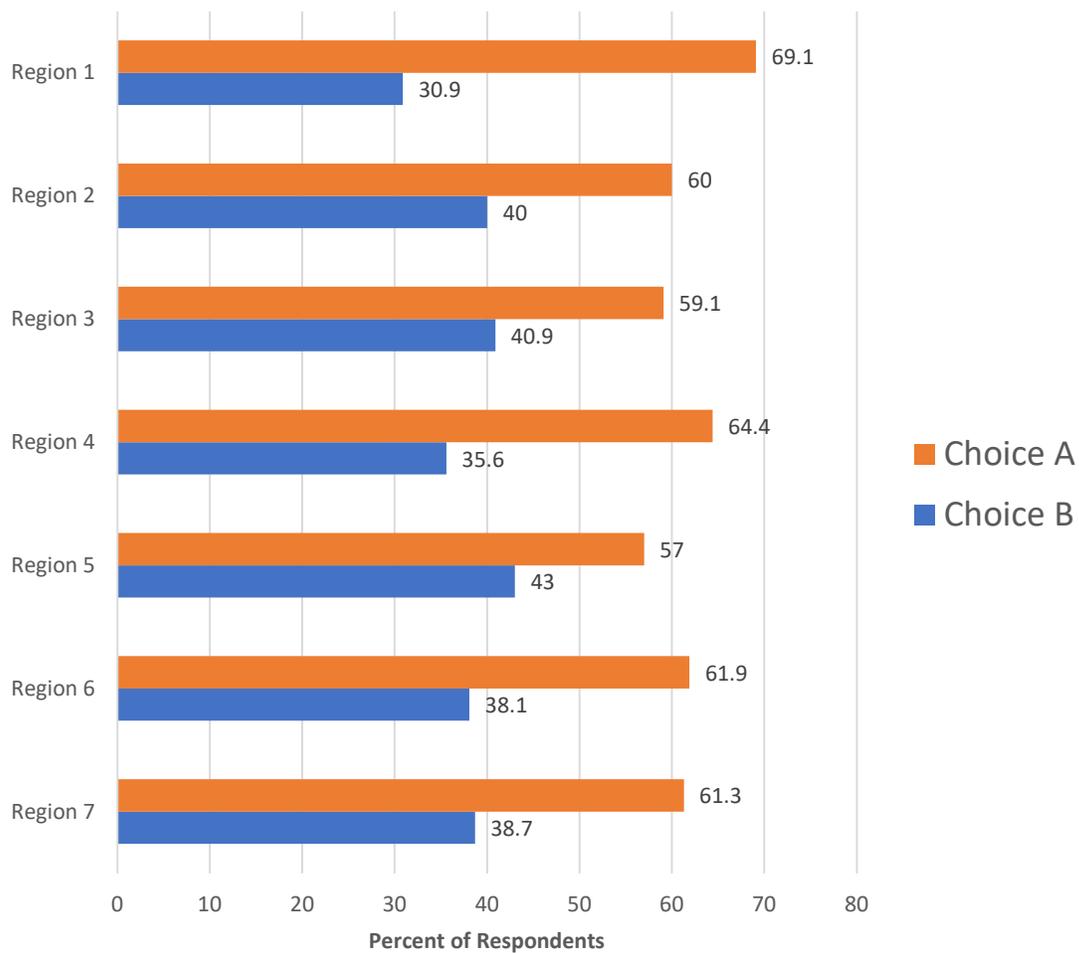


Figure 23. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (strongly oppose) to 5 (strongly support), to what extent do you support or oppose the hunting of mule deer BUCKS in Montana during the RUT (generally after mid-November)?” (This is a cross tab of the above question by the region of Montana where survey respondents reported they have spent the most time hunting mule deer in Montana during the past five years)

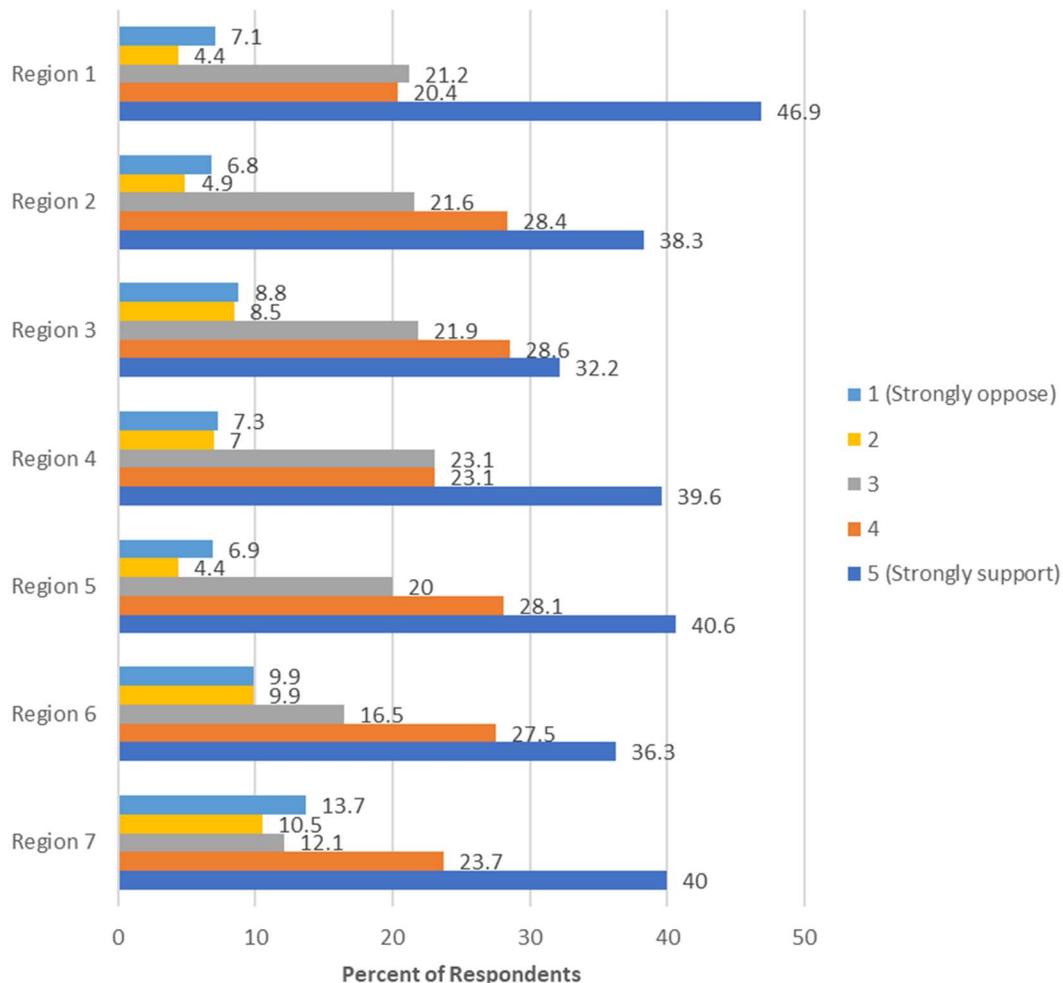


Figure 24. Regional response to... “On a scale from 1 (very disinterested) to 5 (very interested), how interested are you in harvesting antlerless mule deer in Montana?” (This is a cross tab of the above question by the region of Montana where survey respondents reported they have spent the most time hunting mule deer in Montana during the past five years)

